

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 69—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR TUBEROUS SCLEROSIS AWARENESS

Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. HAGEL) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 69

Whereas at least two children born each day will be affected with tuberous sclerosis;

Whereas nearly one million people worldwide are known to have tuberous sclerosis;

Whereas tuberous sclerosis affects all races and ethnic groups equally;

Whereas tuberous sclerosis is caused by either an inherited autosomal disorder or by a spontaneous genetic mutation;

Whereas when tuberous sclerosis is genetically transmitted as an autosomal dominant disorder, a child with a parent with the gene will have a 50-percent chance of inheriting the disease;

Whereas two-thirds of the cases of tuberous sclerosis are believed to be a result of spontaneous mutation, although the cause of such mutations is a mystery;

Whereas diagnosis takes an average of 90 days with consultation of at least three specialists;

Whereas tuberous sclerosis frequently goes undiagnosed because of the obscurity of the disease and the mild form the symptoms may take; and

Whereas the Congress as an institution, and Members of Congress as individuals, are in unique positions to help raise public awareness about the need for increased funding for research, detection, and treatment of tuberous sclerosis and to support the fight against tuberous sclerosis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) all Americans should take an active role in the fight against tuberous sclerosis by all means available to them, including early and complete clinical testing and investigating family histories;

(2) the role played by national and community organizations and health care providers in promoting awareness of the importance of early diagnosis, testing, and ongoing screening should be recognized and applauded;

(3) the Federal Government has a responsibility to—

(A) endeavor to raise awareness about the importance of the early detection of, and proper treatment for, tuberous sclerosis;

(B) increase funding for research so that the causes of, and improved treatment for, tuberous sclerosis may be discovered; and

(C) continue to consider ways to improve access to, and the quality of, health care services for detecting and treating tuberous sclerosis; and

(4) the Director of the National Institutes of Health should take a leadership role in the fight against tuberous sclerosis by acting with appropriate offices within the National Institutes of Health to provide to the Congress a five-year research plan for tuberous sclerosis.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I rise today to introduce a resolution to help increase the awareness of tuberous sclerosis or TS. Even though 1,000,000 people worldwide are affected with this disease, few are even aware of it.

TS is a genetic condition characterized by lesions of the skin and central nervous system, tumor growth and sei-

zures, and TS is transmitted either through genetic inheritance or as a spontaneous genetic mutation. It is the leading known cause of epilepsy, and may also cause brain, eye or kidney tumors, hydrocephalus, and disfiguring growths on the skin. At least two children born every day will be affected by TS, which affects 1 million people worldwide of all races and ethnic groups. Infants and children too often spend their lives being misdiagnosed, possibly leading to irreparable brain damage, kidney failure, and even premature death.

Because there is no cure for this disease, early intervention is important in helping to overcome developmental delays. Passage of this important resolution will help to raise the importance of early detection and proper treatment of TS; encourage increased funding for research and treatments; and call upon the National Institutes of Health, NIH, to develop a research plan for TS.

For all of the families that are affected by this terrible disease, I ask that my colleagues support this important legislation. By helping America to learn about and understand tuberous sclerosis, we will help to improve the quality of life for many Americans.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 70—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS IN SUPPORT OF THE "NATIONAL WASH AMERICA CAMPAIGN"

Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. ALLEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 70

Whereas on September 11, 2001, the United States was victim to the worst terrorist attack on American soil, as hi-jacked aircraft were deliberately crashed into the World Trade Center in New York, New York, and the Pentagon outside Washington, D.C.;

Whereas the tragic events of September 11, 2001, have inflicted enormous emotional pain on Americans of all ages;

Whereas young Americans, who are generally unable to donate blood, help with rescue efforts, or make financial contributions, are nevertheless sharing in the Nation's pain and are especially in need of a way to make a difference and help their country;

Whereas four young sister, Ashley, Aubrey, Alyssa and Alana Welsh, from Annandale, Virginia, whose father serves in the military and narrowly avoided the Pentagon disaster, resolved that they could make a difference by holding local car washes to raise funds for the American Red Cross and to "help wash away the hurt";

Whereas within forty-eight hours the young girls had involved hundreds of others and raised more than \$10,000, all in one Northern Virginia community;

Whereas there are more than 100,000 schools across the United States, whose teachers, students, and parents are searching for ways to unite and help rebuild the Nation as the Welch sisters have done in their home town;

Whereas a National Wash America Campaign has been created with its own Internet site, www.WashAmerica.org, to help other

communities launch similar efforts on the weekends of September 22 and 23, September 29, and 30, and October 6 and 7, 2001; and

Whereas the American Red Cross is designating an account to receive all Wash America funds, giving the children of this campaign the opportunity to participate in one of its largest fund-raising drives ever: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) salutes the young Americans who take part in Wash America events in their communities to help raise funds for the American Red Cross efforts in the wake of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, and thanks them for doing their part to "Help Wash Away the Hurt" across the Nation.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, September 11, 2001 was indeed one of the most tragic days in America's history. While our lives will never be the same, I know that we will be better and stronger as a Nation.

Regrettably, these loathsome, cowardly acts of terrorism have deeply wounded our country, but they have not, and will never dull, the spirit and resolve of the American people. My thoughts and prayers are with those who lost loved ones on that horrific day. My thanks and deep appreciation go out to the many thousands who stepped up in the face of danger to assist in the devastating aftermath, and who continued to work tirelessly at the Pentagon, the World Trade Center, and the Pennsylvania crash site.

During this time of crisis it is important that we come together as a nation. Thus far, the American people have responded in many different ways: by donating blood, sending money, even participating in the rescue efforts underway in Virginia and New York.

But, for one group of people, young Americans, it has been especially difficult for them to find a meaningful outlet for their tremendous need to be involved.

That is why I am so proud today to rise in support of four Virginia youngsters, and to introduce a resolution on their behalf that will help share their remarkable and uplifting story with a country in need of such stories.

The Welch sisters, Ashley, Aubrey, Alyssa and Alana, might not have their father, Lt. Col. Tracy Welch, here today had a meeting he was due to attend at the Pentagon in the morning of September 11, 2001, not been postponed.

After the cowardly attacks on our country, the Welch sisters, like so many other Americans, went to donate blood. However, because they were underage, they were turned away.

Some might have stopped there, but these girls, aged 10-16, were determined to make a difference. So, in two days, they organized four local car washes and mobilized approximately one hundred of their friends to help them wash cars by urging their friends to "Help Wash the Hurt Away." At the end of these two days, the Welch Sisters and their friends raised \$10,000 for the American Red Cross. They called their effort "Wash America."